Monazite Companies in Travancore.

356. **MR. M. SUBRAHMANYA PILLAI** (*Agastisvaram*) : (*a*) Will the Government be pleased to state whether it is a fact that the different monazite companies that were working in the State are now neither working nor exporting monazite?

(*b*) Have the Government any information as to the causes that have led to the stoppage of work by the different companies, and if so, what are they?

(*c*) Do these companies regularly pay to the Government the minimum dues according to the agreements entered into by them; if they have defaulted and failed to keep to the terms of the agreements, will the Government be pleased to take immediate steps to collect the arrears of dues and also to terminate the agreements entered into?

MR. P. N. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Ag. Secretary to Government*): (*a*) The companies are mining monazite, but are exporting the same only in small quantities.

(*b*) There is no stoppage of work. The reason for the decline in export is that there is very little demand for monazite in the European markets.

(*c*) The Travancore Minerals Company has paid its dues up to the end of the commercial year 1920-21 and Messrs. Hopkin and Williams Ltd. up to the end of the commercial year 1923-24. These two companies have asked for a moratorium and their request is under consideration. The question will be considered as a general one and it is hoped that a working arrangement will be devised so that the industry can be kept alive in the joint interests of the Government and of the firms concerned. A revision of the terms of the lease will also be considered. From Messrs. E. J. John and K. Chandy, a sum of Rs. 18,000 is due for the first commercial year ending the 17th September 1925. This sum they have been asked to pay. As regards Mr. E J. Philipose, he has mined only 301 tons which fell short of the minimum fixed, *viz.*, 500 tons, by 199 tons. The penalty fixed is Rs. 60 per ton on the deficiency. As there is no workable deposit of monazite in the area leased out, he has requested that he may be exempted from the payment of penalty. This too is under consideration.

Local Committees on the Working of the Police Department.

357. **MR. G. RAMAN MENON** (*Mavelikara* cum *Karthikapalli*): With a view to make the working of the Police Department more beneficial to the people, will the Government be pleased to appoint local committees with a non-official majority to report regularly to the Government on the work of the police officers within the areas concerned?

MR. K. GEORGE (*Ag. Chief Secretary to Government*): The Government do not consider that the appointment of such committees is a necessary or workable arrangement.

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